REMARKS

Applicants hereby amend the specification to refer to prior applications. These amendments add no new matter.

Applicants request consideration of the application and early allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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CYCLIZED AMINO ACID DERIVATIVES

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuing application of copending International Patent Application PCT/US00/18577,
filed July 6, 2000, which claims priority of United
States provisional patent 60/142,404, filed July 6, 1999.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to cyclized amino acid derivatives for treating or preventing neuronal damage associated with neurological diseases. The invention also provides compositions comprising the compounds of the present invention and methods of utilizing those compositions for treating or preventing neuronal damage.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Neurological diseases are associated with the death of or injury to neuronal cells. Typical treatment of neurological diseases involves drugs capable of inhibiting neuronal cell death. A more recent approach involves the promotion of nerve regeneration by promoting neuronal growth.

Neuronal growth, which is critical for the survival of neurons, is stimulated in vitro by nerve 25 growth factors (NGF). For example, Glial Cell Line-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (GDNF) demonstrates neurotrophic activity both, in vivo and in vitro, and is currently being investigated for the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Insulin and insulin-like growth factors have been shown to stimulate growth of neurites in rat pheochromocytoma PC12 cells and in cultured sympathetic and sensory neurons [Recio-Pinto et al., J. Neurosci., 6, pp. 1211-1219 (1986)]. Insulin and